

CALL NO.

CA1
EP 150
-2002

GOVT

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
presents

Government
Publications

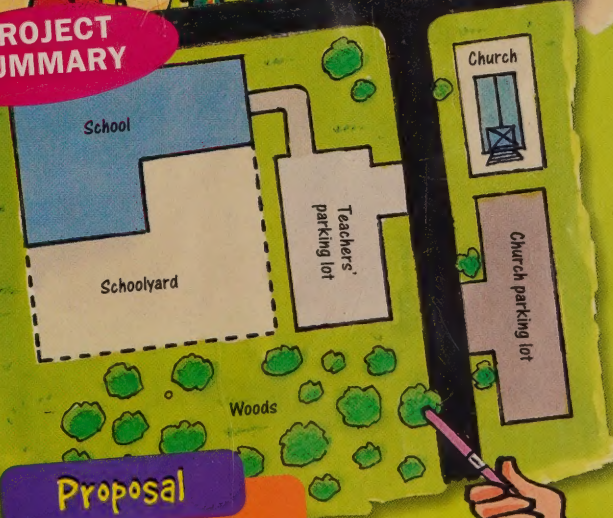
Dilemma at K. Perplexed School

g: The gym at
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not only among our students, but
within the community as a whole. We're
here today so that everyone may express
their views on this issue. First, let's take
a look at the summary of the
proposed project.

PROJECT SUMMARY



Problem

Since the school's
population has increased
from 250 to 350 students, the
yard has become too small.

Proposal

The school has purchased
the small forest located
behind the yard. We propose
to cut down the trees, pave
the surface and set up a
basketball court, in collabo-
ration with the city.

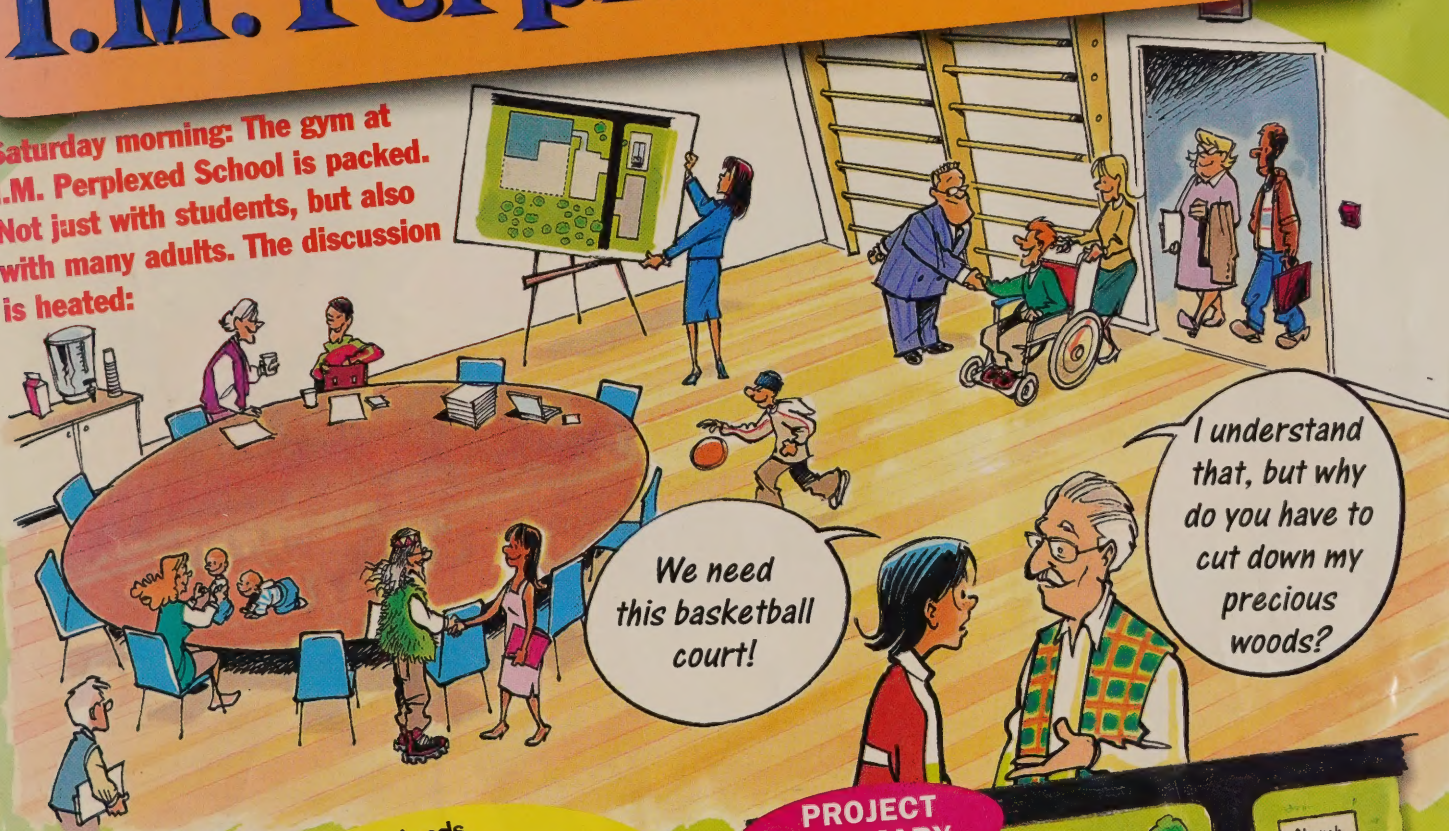
Mia Leeder
School Principal

next ▶

CAI
EP150
-Z002 (10)

Dilemma at I.M. Perplexed School

Saturday morning: The gym at I.M. Perplexed School is packed. Not just with students, but also with many adults. The discussion is heated:



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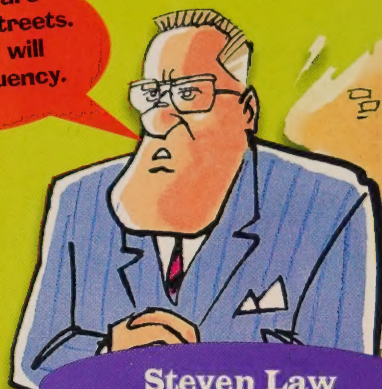
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Mia Leeder
School Principal



We
will now hear from
those who would like to
express their views.

Our
young people are
loitering in the streets.
The new yard will
prevent delinquency.



Steven Law
Municipal Councillor

We
need a basketball court
where we can play during
recess and after class. You all
know the saying: "Sound of body,
sound of mind." Sports are
healthy.



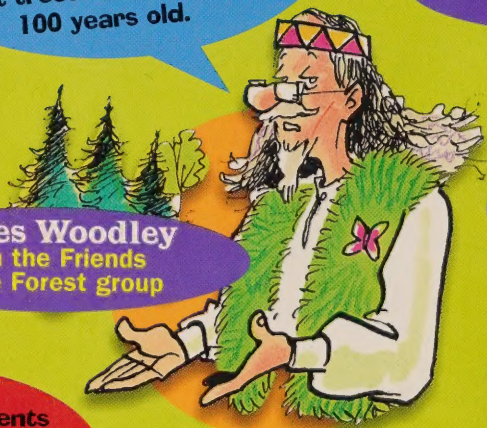
Philip Ball
student

Trees produce
oxygen. If we cut down the
forest, we lessen the quality of
the air we breathe. In 10 years, if
the school has fewer students,
we'll have destroyed an incred-
ible place forever!



Robin Greene
citizen

We must protect the
last wooded area of our
neighbourhood. It is home to
dozens of animal and plant
species, and it contains our
oldest trees: Many are over
100 years old.



James Woodley
from the Friends
of the Forest group

The children have no
room to run and play. This
cannot continue!



Nancy Steelwool
yard monitor

With
the woods, students
can discover nature
first-hand rather than
from textbooks.



Susan Blackbird
Ecology teacher

What do you think?

Is it possible to make the yard
bigger but reduce the
project's negative effects on the
environment? Take a close look
at the drawing accompanying the
project summary, and try to
imagine a solution. Then go to
the next page.



THE NEW PROJECT

Imagination and compromise. With these two ingredients, the students and the citizens found a solution that protects most of the woods. And it will cost much less than the original project!

- A basketball court will be built on the teachers' parking lot (already paved). Teachers will park their cars in front of the church across the street, since the church lot is empty during the week.
- The schoolyard will be extended onto only one-third of the woods. On this portion, all healthy young trees will be transplanted in the neighbourhood.
- In the rest of the woods, an interpretative path will be created so that citizens and students can discover the ecological wealth of the forest.
- For each tree cut down, the city will plant two new trees elsewhere in the neighbourhood.

Environmental assessment...



Without realizing it, the students and citizens of I.M. Perplexed School applied a work method that is becoming more and more popular: They conducted an **environmental assessment**.

The goal of this method is to reduce a project's negative effects on the environment as much as possible. The environment includes water, the air, the ground, and all living things with which we share the Earth. An environmental assessment consists of four steps:

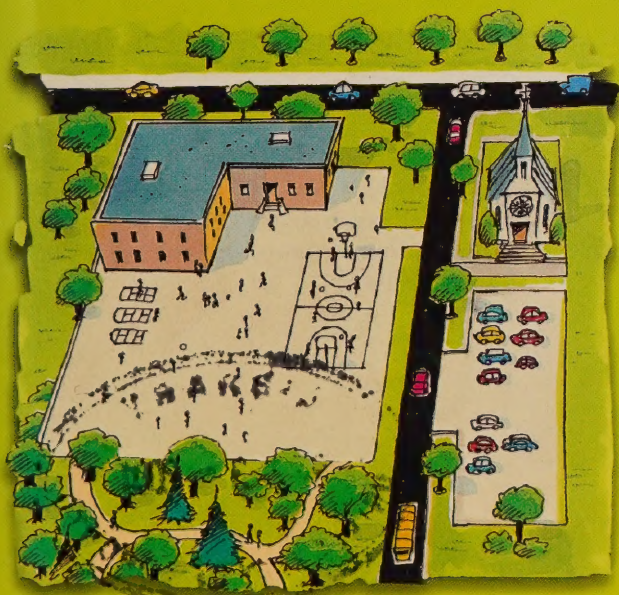
1. Describe the project in detail.
2. Evaluate the negative effects on the environment.
3. Eliminate or reduce the effects on the environment.
4. Make the best decision possible for us and for the environment.

Since the 1970s, the Canadian government has carried out environmental assessment for all its

projects. And the method works! Here's an example:

Plans had been made to widen an old road that crossed through a marsh used by migrating birds. The project would have destroyed the marsh. Following the environmental assessment, it was decided that a new road would be built to go around the marsh. The old road was covered with earth to grow plants!

Environmental assessment applies not only to major projects carried out by businesses and governments (factories, roads, etc.), but also to your family's own projects. Pretend your family is thinking of buying a second car. First, consider possible alternatives, such as walking, taking the bus, or car-pooling. If you decide the car is indispensable, choose a model that does not burn a lot of fuel.



Quiz

The Environment is Everyone's Business

Every day, there are a whole bunch of little things you do that affect the environment. And 30 million Canadians do those same things! So if each person changes their habits, it will make a huge difference.

Are you environmentally "smart"? Try our quiz and see.

1. How much garbage does a Canadian family of four produce in one year?

- a) 50 kg
- b) 100 kg
- c) 500 kg
- d) 2000 kg (2 tons)



2. Which of these uses the least amount of water?

- a) Taking a shower
- b) Taking a bath
- c) Not washing



3. How many times per year does your family open the refrigerator?

- a) 1000
- b) 5000
- c) 8000



4. You buy a soft drink. Once you've swallowed the last drop, where should you throw the can?

- a) Into the street
- b) Into a garbage can
- c) Into a recycling bin



Answers

1. **D** Canadians are the world's biggest garbage producers! What can you do about it?

Choose products with less packaging, or where the packaging is made of recycled materials and is recyclable. And put it in your recycling bin (the packaging, not the product!).

2. **c** But this is not the ideal solution for those living with you! **The best is a shower.** A shower uses less water (100 litres) than a bath (200 litres). Even better, install a low-flow or water-saving showerhead.

3. **C** We open our refrigerator an average of 22 times a day, which comes to 8000 times a year. Each time, warm air rushes into the refrigerator, which consumes a lot of energy to keep food cold. So don't open the fridge for no reason. And when you open it, quickly take what you need and then shut the door.

4. **c** If every Canadian threw a can into the open each day, we would have 11 billion cans polluting our cities, countrysides and forests within one year. What a waste! **It's much better to recycle them:** The aluminum can be melted to make new cans an infinite number of times. **And it takes 20 times less energy to recycle aluminum than to make new aluminum.**





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